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UM hoopsters begin pre-season basketball drills

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sports local + state + Big Sky



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MISSOULA. . . .

New Grizzly head basketball coach Jim Brandenburg greets his 1976-77 University of Montana basketball team, Friday Oct. 15 at the UM Fieldhouse for the first pre-season practice.

Seven lettermen return to the Grizzly Den, including four starters, led by All-Big Sky Conference first team selection Michael Ray Richardson. The 6-4 junior is joined by 6-3 guard Ben DeMers and 6-8 center Mike J. Richardson, both seniors this year. The fourth returning starter is Kirk Rocheleau, a 6-0 junior. Sophomores Craig Henkel (6-7), Charlie Yankus (6-5) and Allan Nielson (6-6) should also see plenty of action with the Grizzlies this season.

"We have only two seniors returning this season and we are still a relatively young and inexperienced basketball team," Brandenburg said. "We will begin working with the fundamentals and concentrating on the types of offenses that will work best with our personnel."

Brandenburg said the varsity will practice Monday-Friday at 3:15 in the Fieldhouse.

Assistant basketball coach this year is Mike Montgomery, who comes to UM from Boise State where he served as an assistant to coach Bus Connor. Some of Montgomery's duties are supervision of the JV program, scouting, recruiting, traveling with the varsity and also assisting with on the floor coaching.

Montana's JV team will be coached by Joe Donahue and Ken McKenzie.

Last season the Grizzlies compiled a 13-12 record under the direction of Jud Heathcote who is now the head basketball coach at Michigan State.

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1976-77 GRIZZLY BASKETBALL ROSTER

<u>Name</u>	<u>Pos.</u>	<u>Ht.</u>	<u>Wt.</u>	<u>Yr.</u>	<u>Hometown</u>
Greg Bauska	F	6-7	195	So.	Kalispell, Mont.
Ben DeMers	G	6-3	175	Sr.	Missoula, Mont.
Jim Dunn	C	7-1	250	Fr.	Victoria, B.C.
Craig Henkel	F	6-7	195	So.	Libby, Mont.
Lee Johnson	F	6-9½	200	So.	Omaha, Neb.
Jim Malloy	G	6-1	165	Jr.	Malta, Mont.
Rick Nelson	F	6-6	210	Fr.	Libby, Mont.
Allan Nielson	F-G	6-5	180	So.	Westby, Mont.
Mike J. Richardson	C	6-8	210	Sr.	Denver, Colo.
Mike R. Richardson	G-F	6-4	180	Jr.	Denver, Colo.
Kirk Rocheleau	G	6-0	180	Jr.	Missoula, Mont.
John Stroeder	F	6-8½	235	Fr.	Port Townsend, Wash.
Blaine Taylor	G	6-0	165	Fr.	Missoula, Mont.
Charlie Yankus	F	6-5	205	So.	Medical Lake, Wash.
Rick Zanon	G	6-0	165	So.	Kalispell, Mont.

1976-77 GRIZZLY BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

<u>DATE</u>	<u>OPPONENT</u>	<u>SITE</u>
Nov. 29	San Jose State	Missoula
Dec. 3	Air Force Academy	Air Force Academy, Colo.
Dec. 4	Creighton	Omaha, Neb.
Dec. 10	College of Great Falls	Missoula
Dec. 17	Northern Colorado	Missoula
Dec. 18	University of Portland	Missoula
Dec. 21	Arizona State	Tempe, Ariz.
Dec. 23	Long Beach State	Long Beach, Calif.
Dec. 27	Eastern Montana	Missoula
Dec. 30	Pillsbury Tournament	Minneapolis, Minn.
31	(UM, Boston College, Cornell, Minnesota)	
Jan. 6	*Weber State	Ogden, Utah
Jan. 8	*Northern Arizona	Flagstaff, Ariz.
Jan. 15	*Montana State	Missoula
Jan. 22	*Montana State	Bozeman, Mont.
Jan. 28	*Gonzaga	Missoula
Jan. 29	*Idaho	Missoula
Feb. 4	*Gonzaga	Spokane, Wash.
Feb. 5	*Idaho	Moscow, Idaho
Feb. 8	Utah State	Missoula
Feb. 11	*Boise State	Boise, Idaho
Feb. 12	*Idaho State	Pocatello, Idaho
Feb. 18	*Boise State	Missoula
Feb. 19	*Idaho State	Missoula
Feb. 25	*Weber State	Missoula
Feb. 26	*Northern Arizona	Missoula
Mar. 4-5	Big Sky Championship Tournament (to be hosted by regular season leader)	

*Big Sky Conference game

Home games begin at 8 p.m. Mountain Time

1975-76 RECORD: 13-12 overall and 7-7 in Big Sky Play (5th)

HEAD COACH: Jim Brandenburg, first year

ASSISTANT COACH: Mike Montgomery